Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 7-24 and 26 have been withdrawn by the Examiner in response to a Restriction Election. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Morgan et al. (US Patent No. 5,220,674), hereafter "Morgan." Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is defective because Morgan fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

For example, independent claim 1 recites:

"A connection accepting system, comprising: client terminals connected to a network; and a first server for accepting connection requests from said client terminals through said network, wherein said server includes a priority order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets a connection priority for said first client terminal and transmits data conveying said connection priority to said first client terminal; and a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to connection priority upon receiving a second connection request from a second client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request; and said first client terminal displays connection priority information, based on said data conveying said connection priority."

Morgan fails to disclose, *inter alia*, "a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to connection priority **upon receiving a second connection request** from a second client terminal of said client terminals **after said first connection request**."

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On the contrary, Morgan discloses an event handler 150 that stores printing requests in a first-in first-out list and, when a printer becomes available, retrieves the top most available printing request from the first-in first-out list that the printer can serve and assigns it to that printer (see., e.g., col. 16, line 39 to col. 17, line 20). As such, the event handler 150 allows connection of a first print request irrespective of the receipt of a second print request. That is, the servicing of a first print request is not dependent upon the receipt of a second print request as claimed.

Morgan is similarly deficient with respect to independent claims 3 and 25.

With further regard to independent claims 1 (and similarly dependent claim 4), Morgan fails to disclose "said first client terminal displays connection priority information, based on said data conveying said connection priority." Although the Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed in col. 6, lines 16-25 of Morgan, Applicant submits that this section of Morgan is completely silent with regard to the **display of connection priority information**. On the contrary, the cited section of Morgan merely discloses an operator console 20 that allows an operator to monitor and control the activities of network 12. There is no disclosure regarding the display of connection priority information.
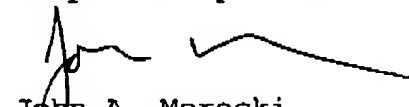
With regard to dependent claim 6, Morgan fails to disclose "a program for automatically executing said second connection request again is transmitted to said client terminal to which said order of connection has been set." The Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed in col. 16, lines 39-67 of Morgan. This is incorrect. The cited

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section of Morgan does not provide any disclosure regarding such a program. Rather, the cited section of Morgan discloses that the event handler 150 notifies a printing client of the status of a submitted print request. This notification does not comprise a "program for automatically executing said second connection request again is transmitted to said client terminal to which said order of connection has been set" as claimed.

Conclusion

    In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/31/06

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